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FIG. 1

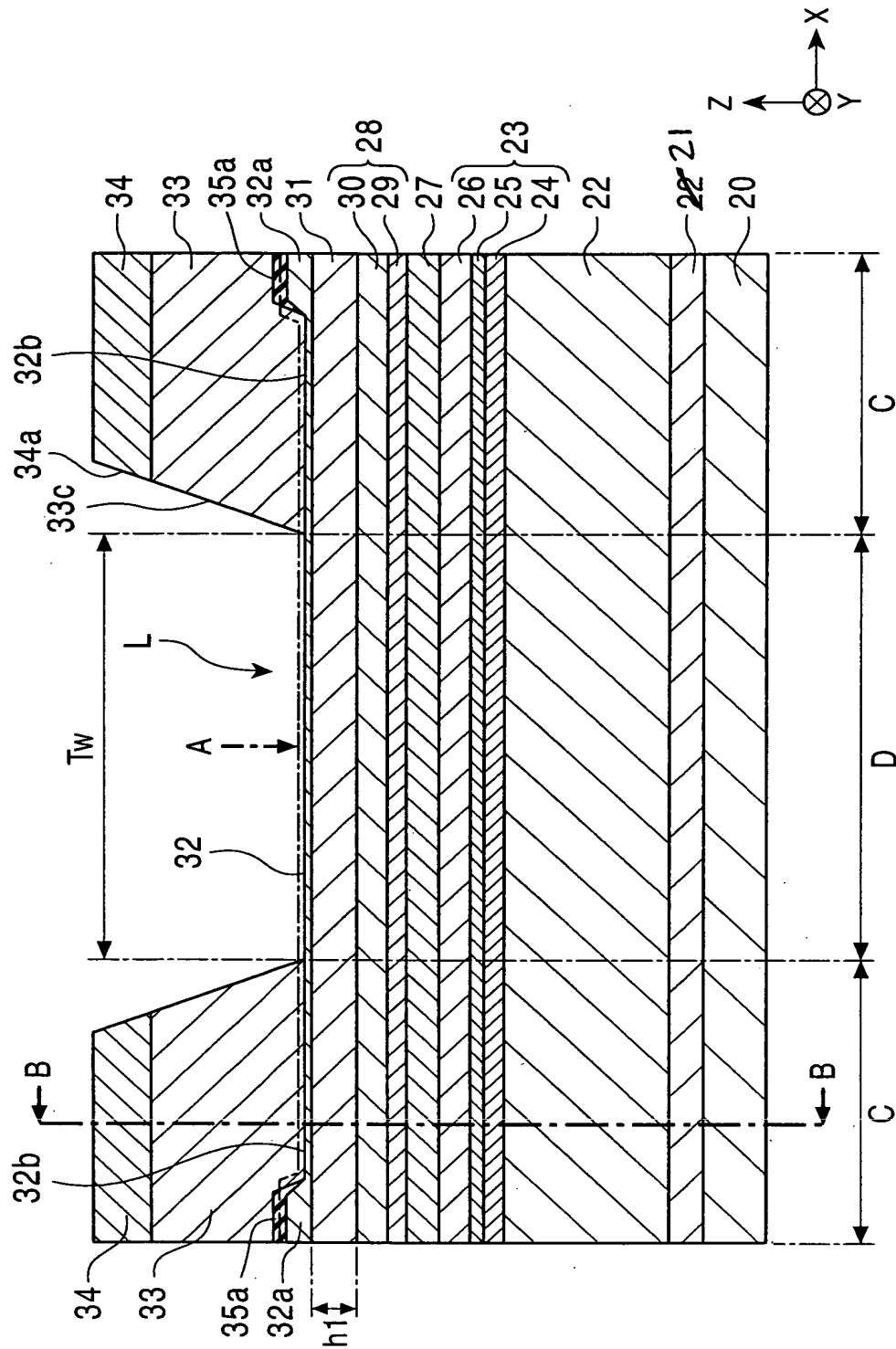
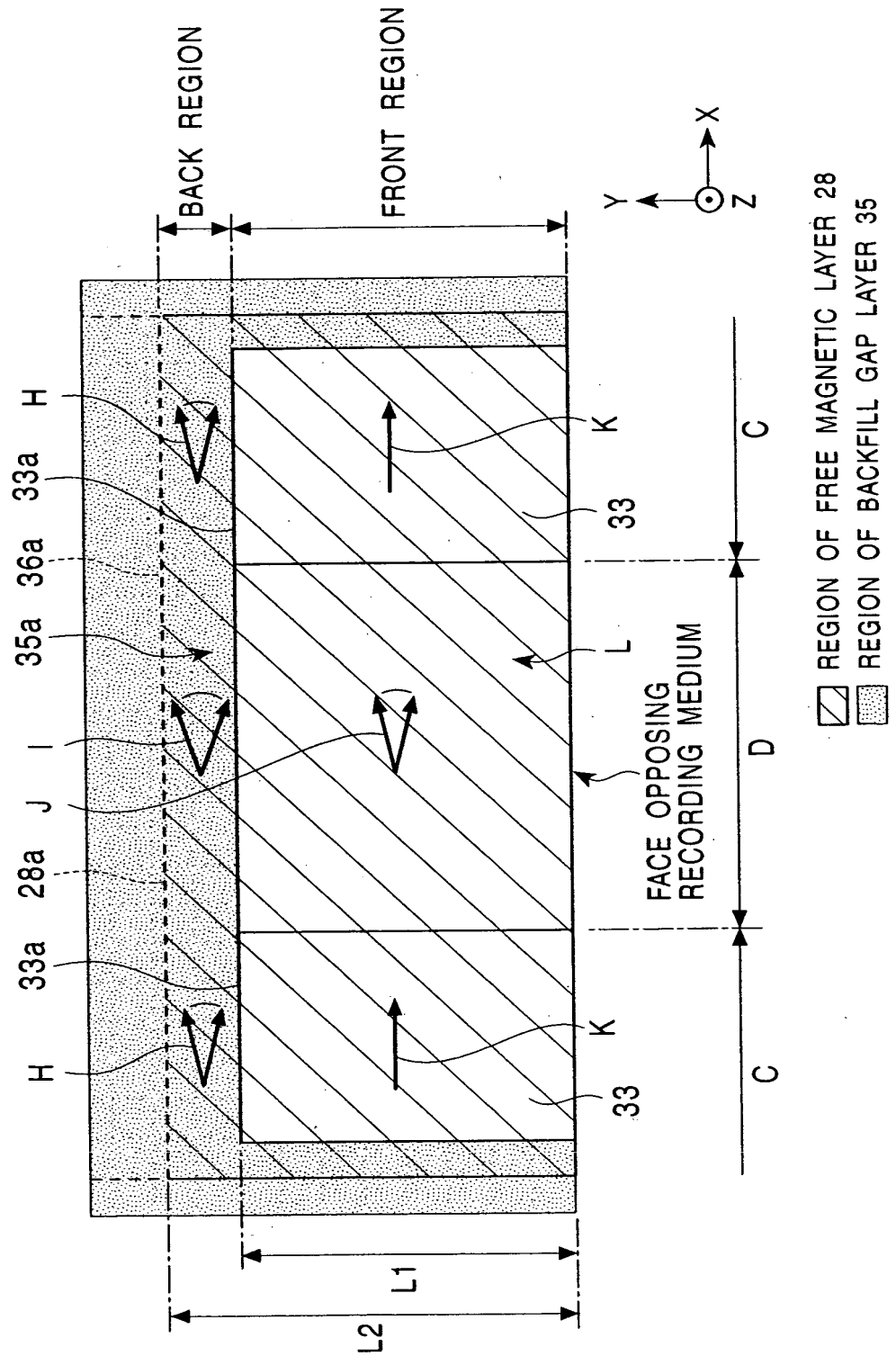


FIG. 2



This diagram shows a cross-sectional view of a magnetic recording medium. The medium consists of a substrate 20 with a series of parallel recording tracks 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30. A gap layer 31 is formed between the tracks, and a protective layer 32 is on top. The gap layer 31 is tapered, being thicker in the front region and thinner in the back region. The front region is defined by a dashed line 36, and the back region is defined by a dashed line 36a. The gap layer 31 is labeled 32b in the front region and 32a in the back region. The protective layer 32 is labeled 33a in the front region and 33b in the back region. A label 34 points to the top surface of the protective layer 32. A label 35 points to the gap layer 31. A label 36 points to the front region. A label 36a points to the back region. A coordinate system is shown at the bottom right with Z pointing up, Y pointing right, and X pointing out of the page.

FIG. 4

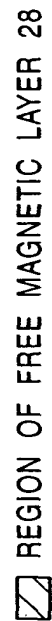
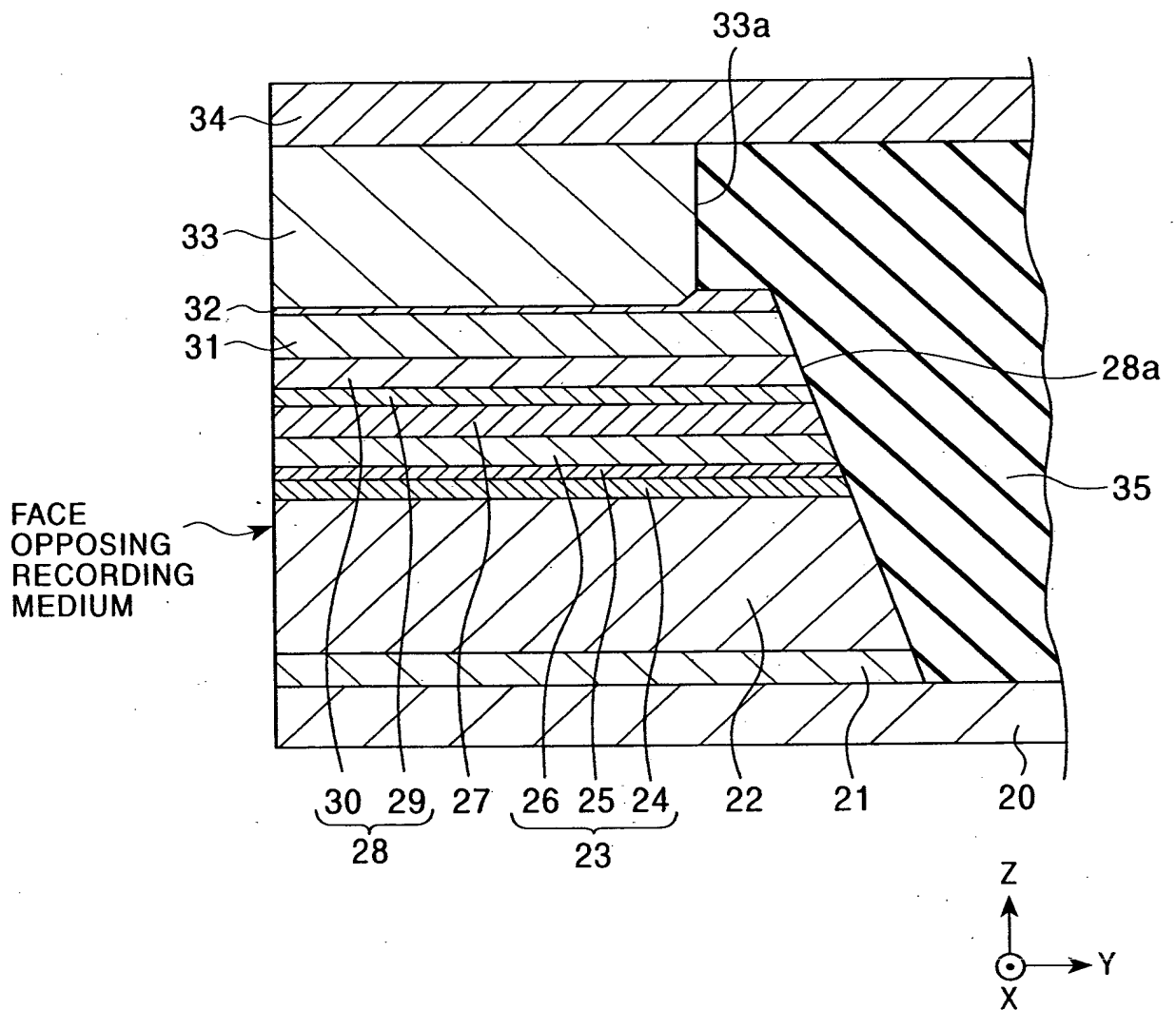


FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

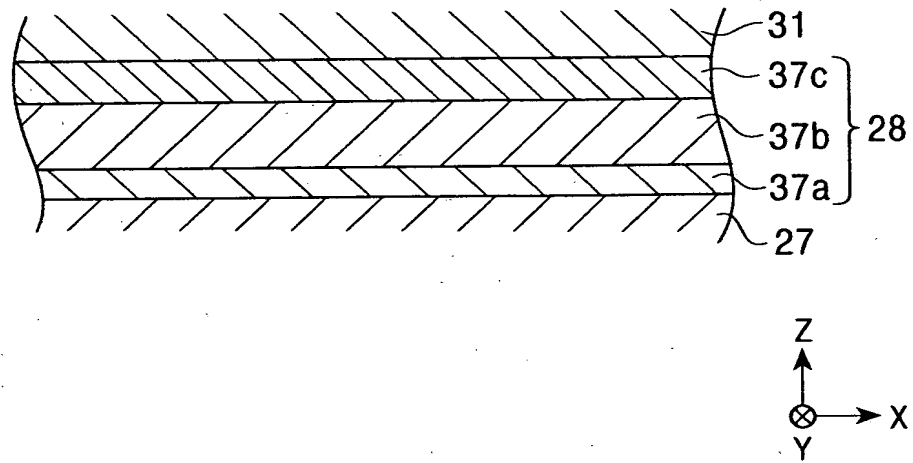
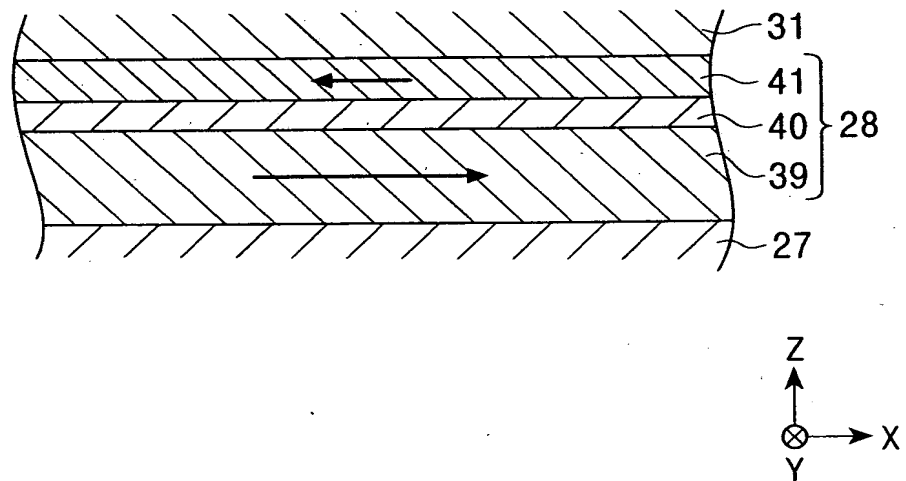


FIG. 7



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FIG. 8

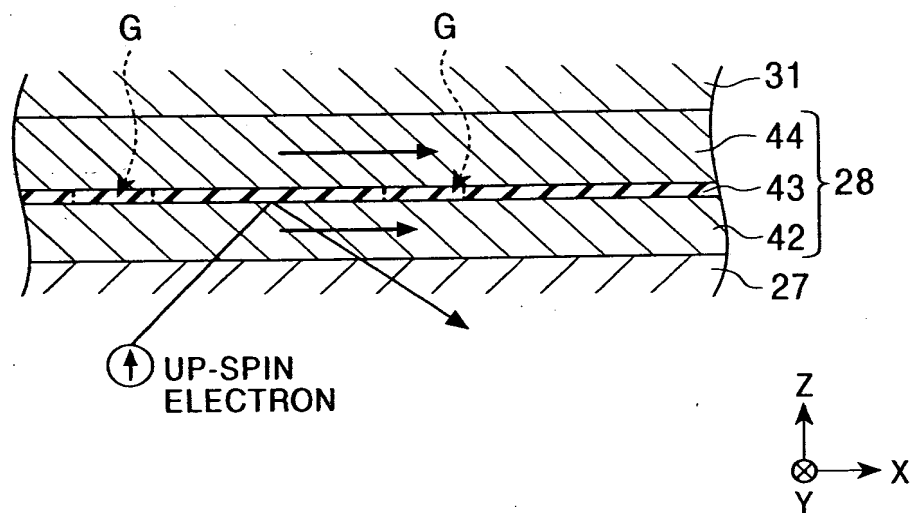
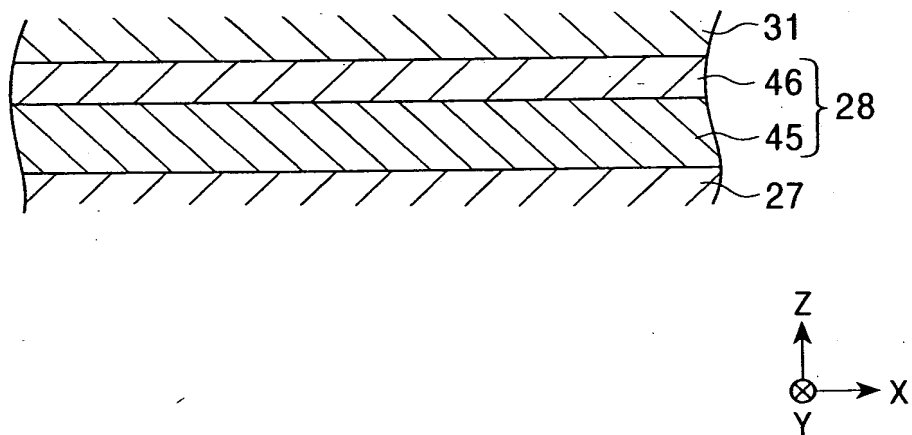
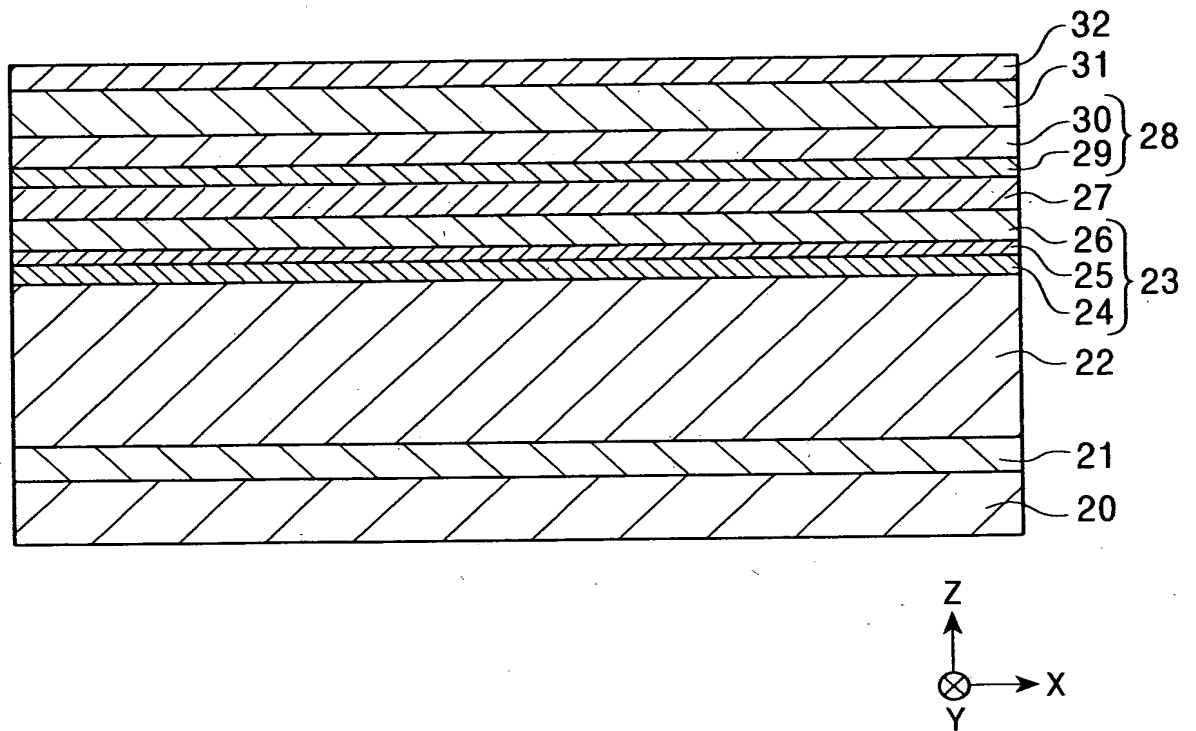


FIG. 9



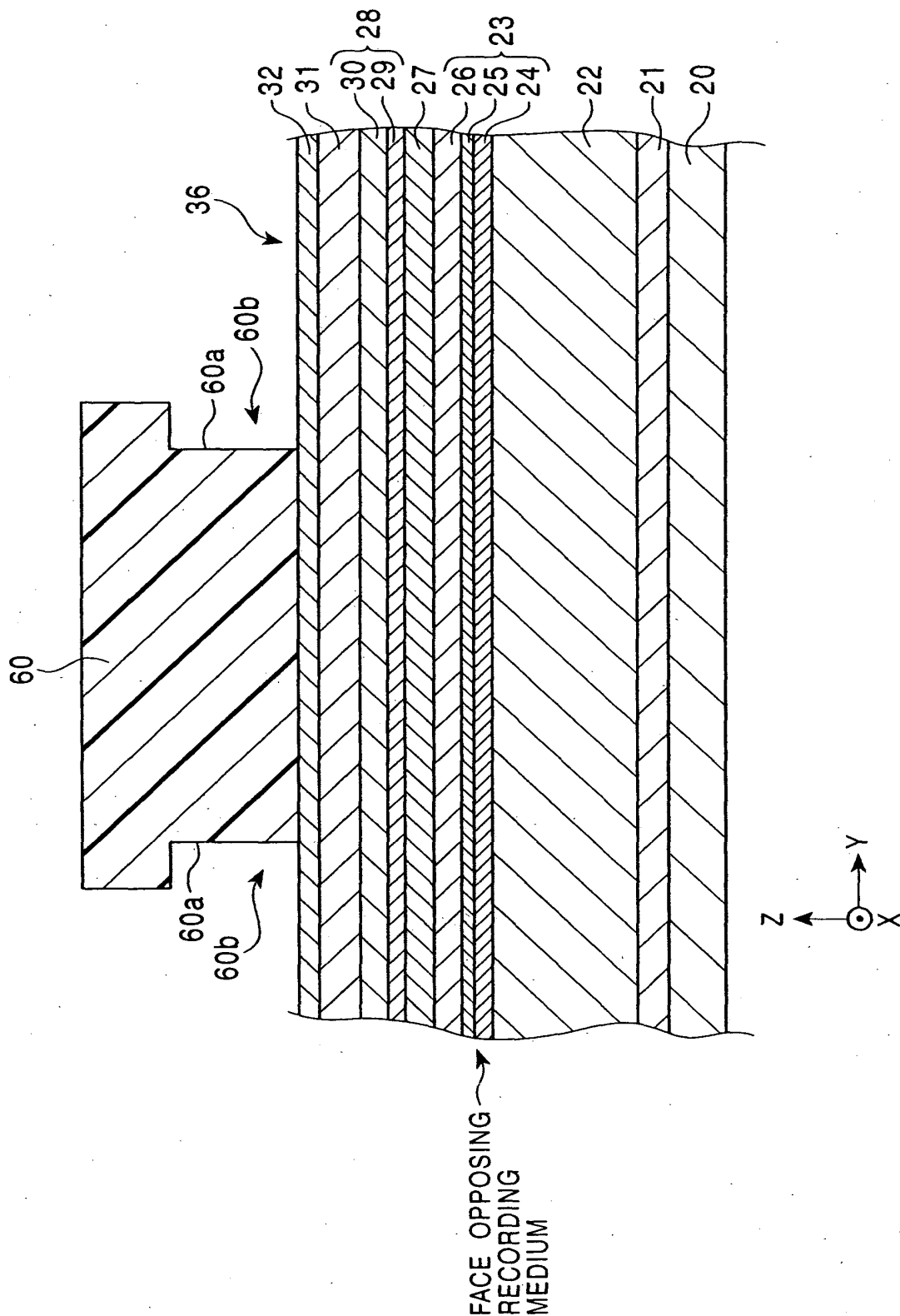
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FIG. 10



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FIG. 11



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FIG. 12

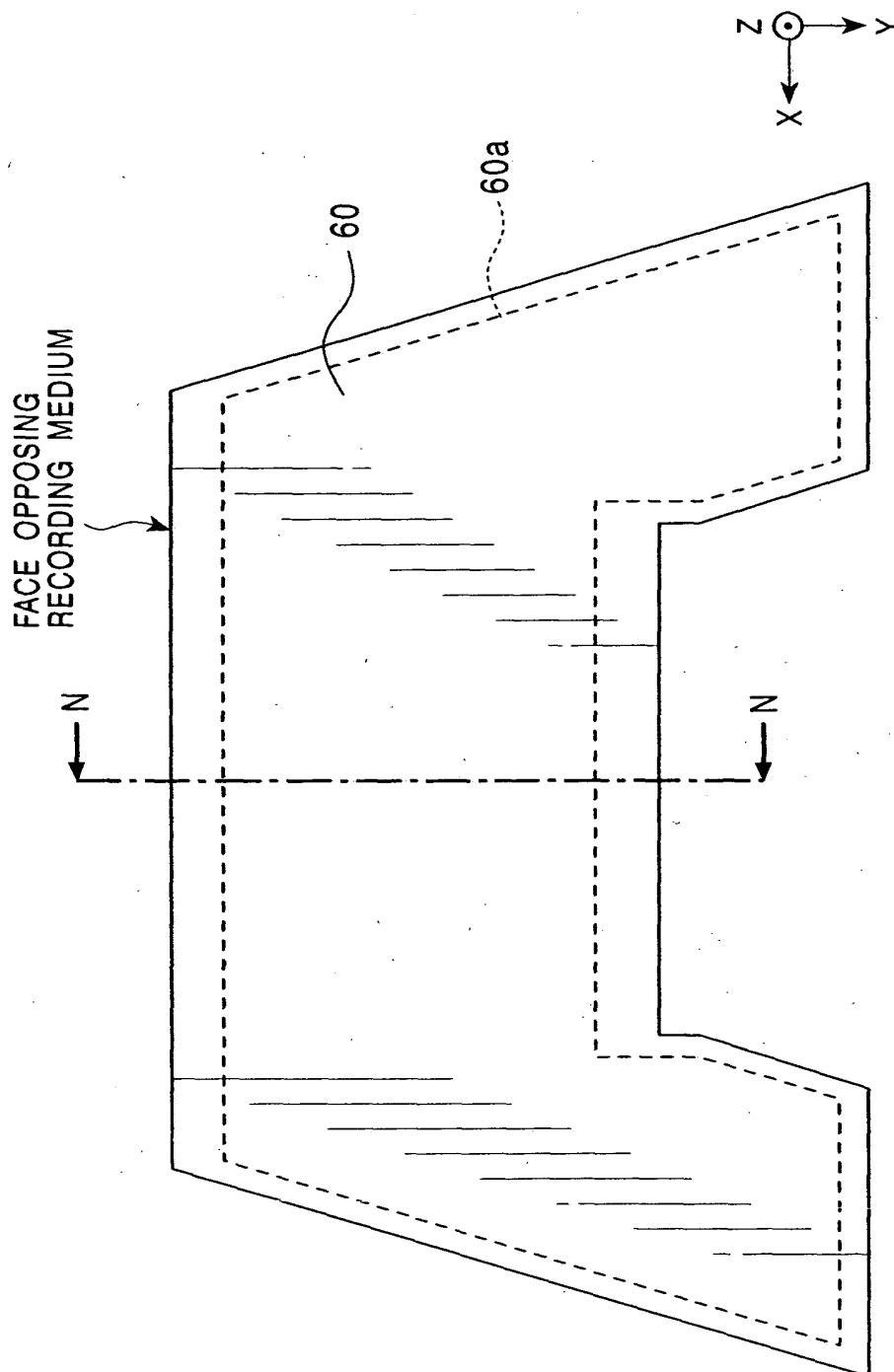
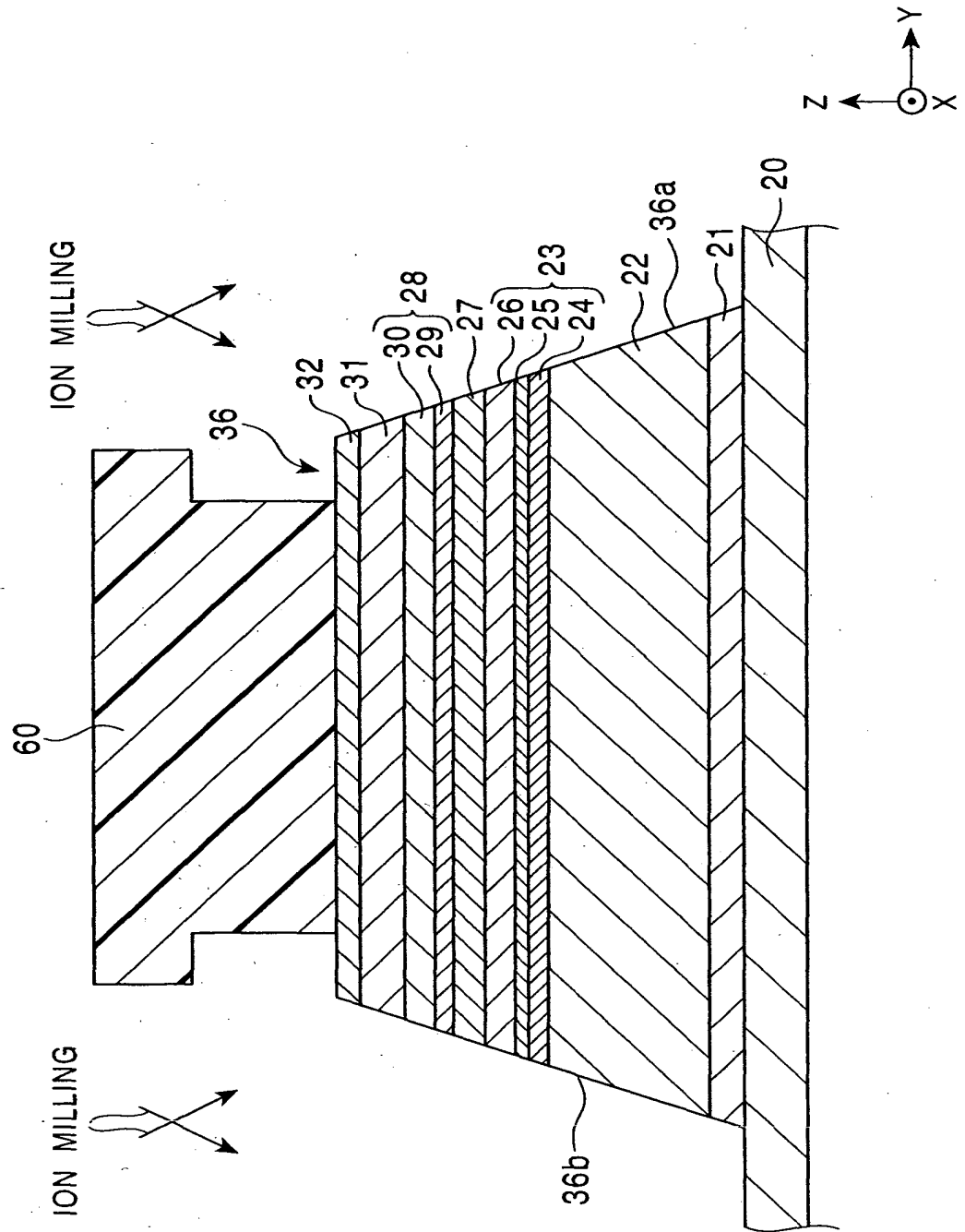
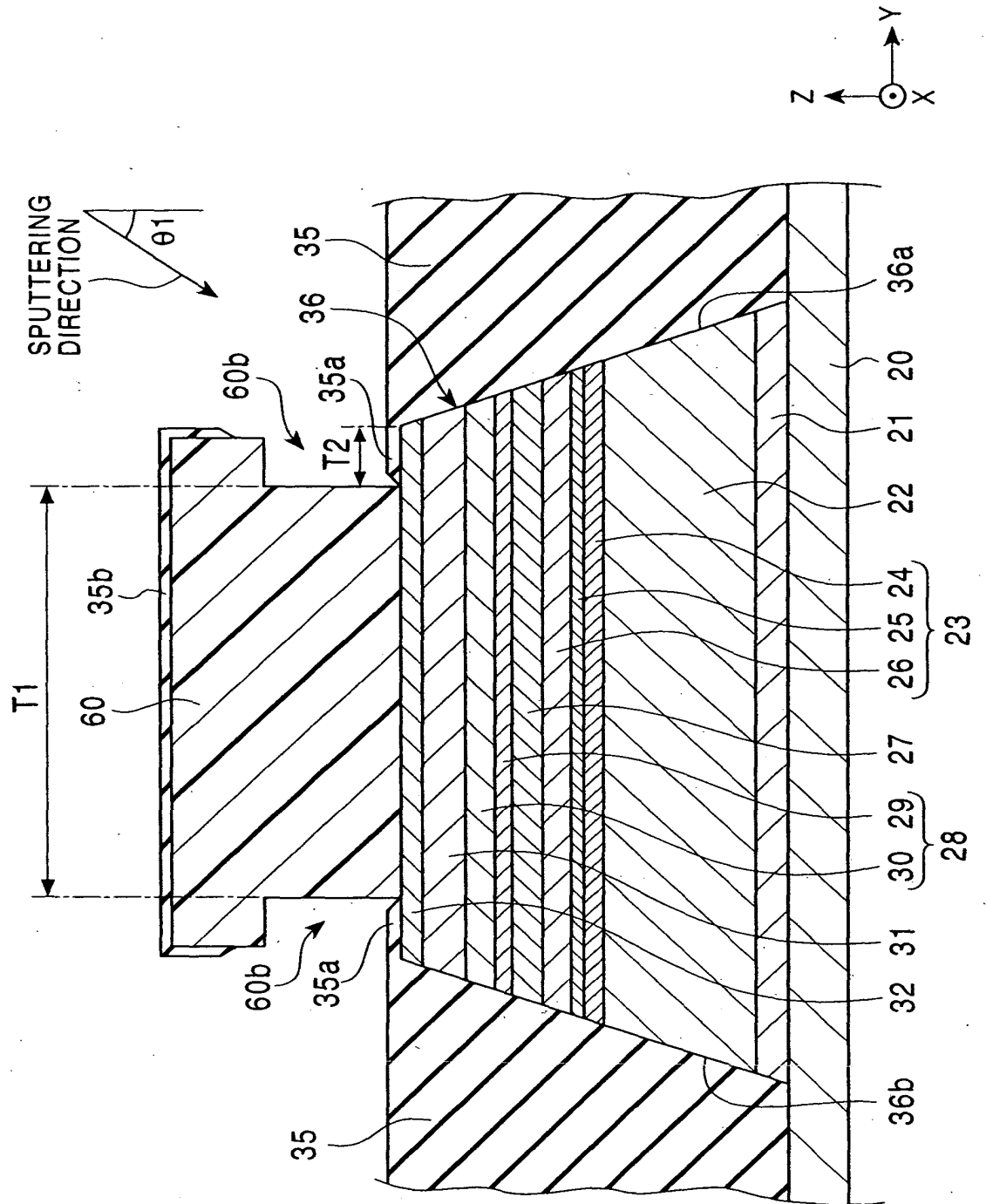


FIG. 13



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FIG. 14



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FIG. 15

ION MILLING

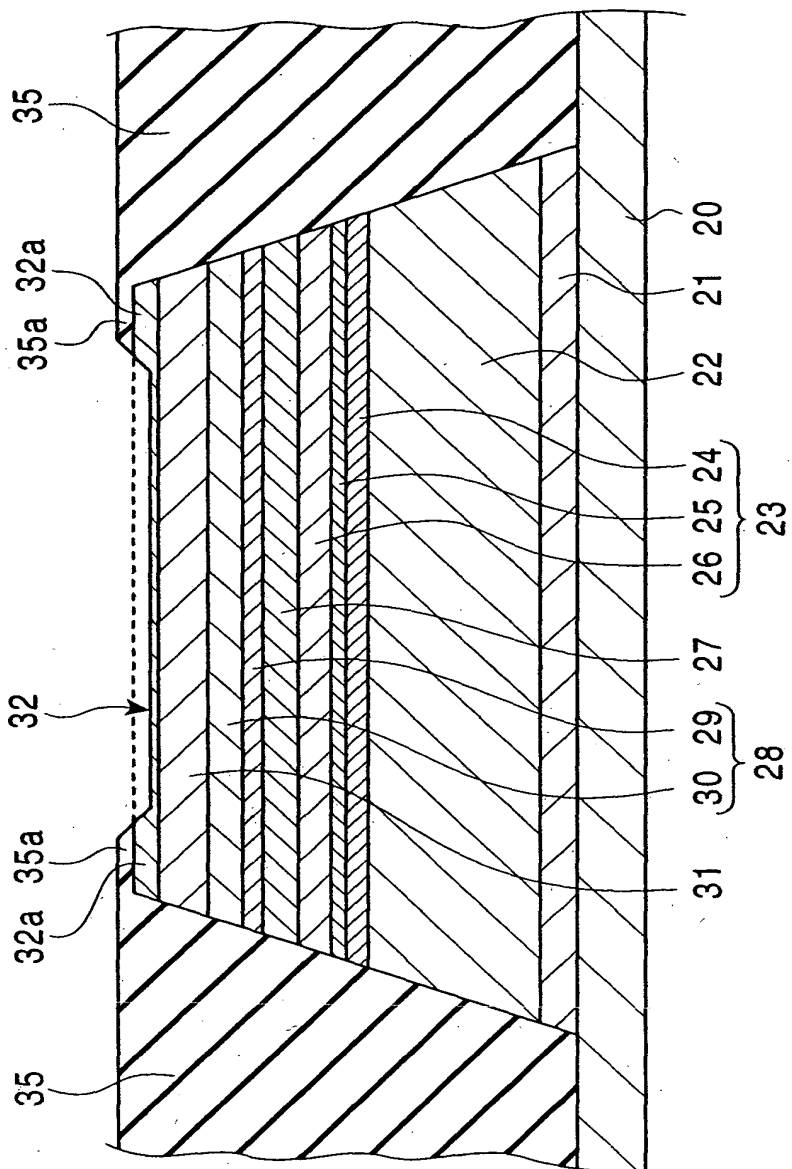
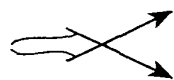
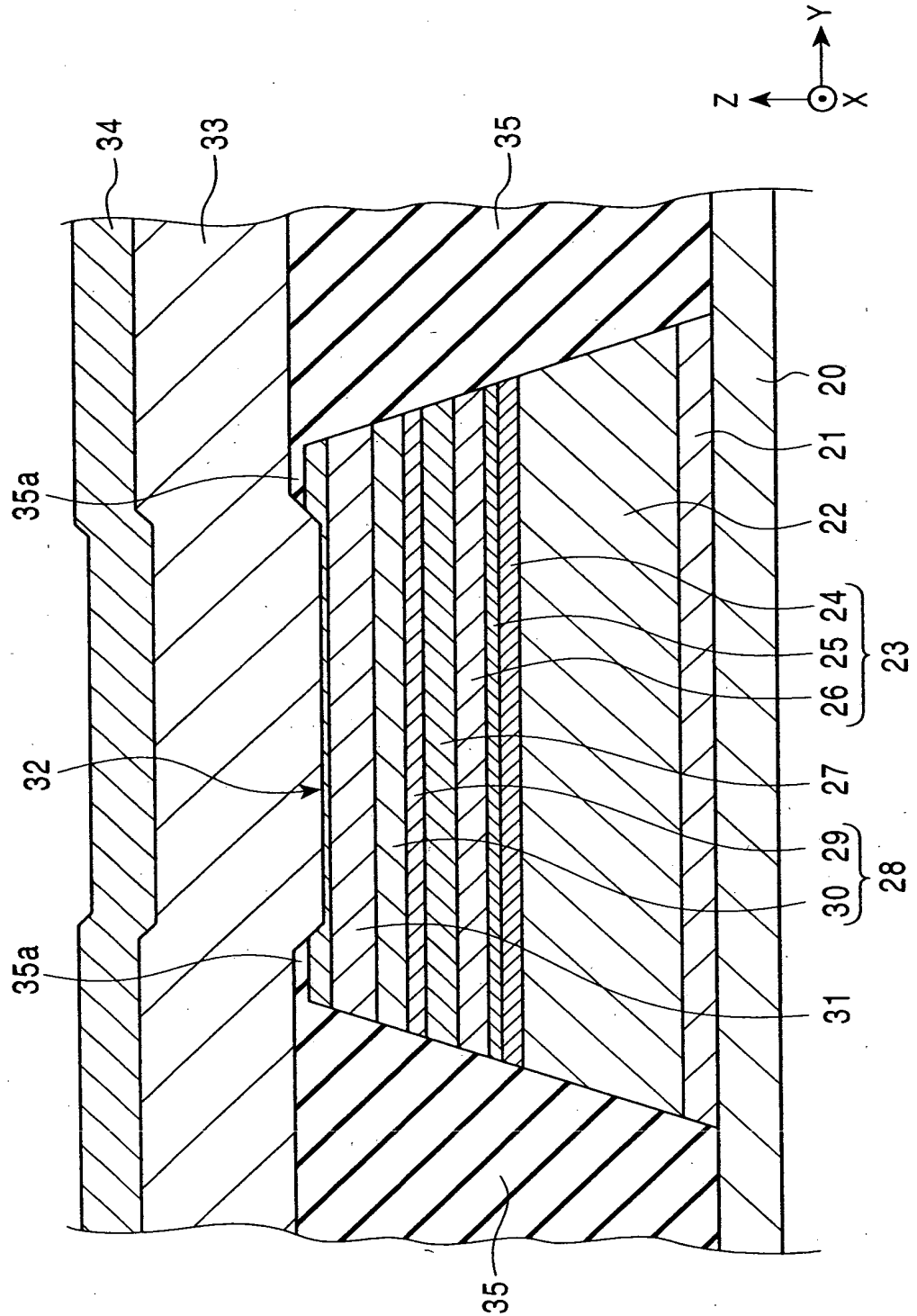


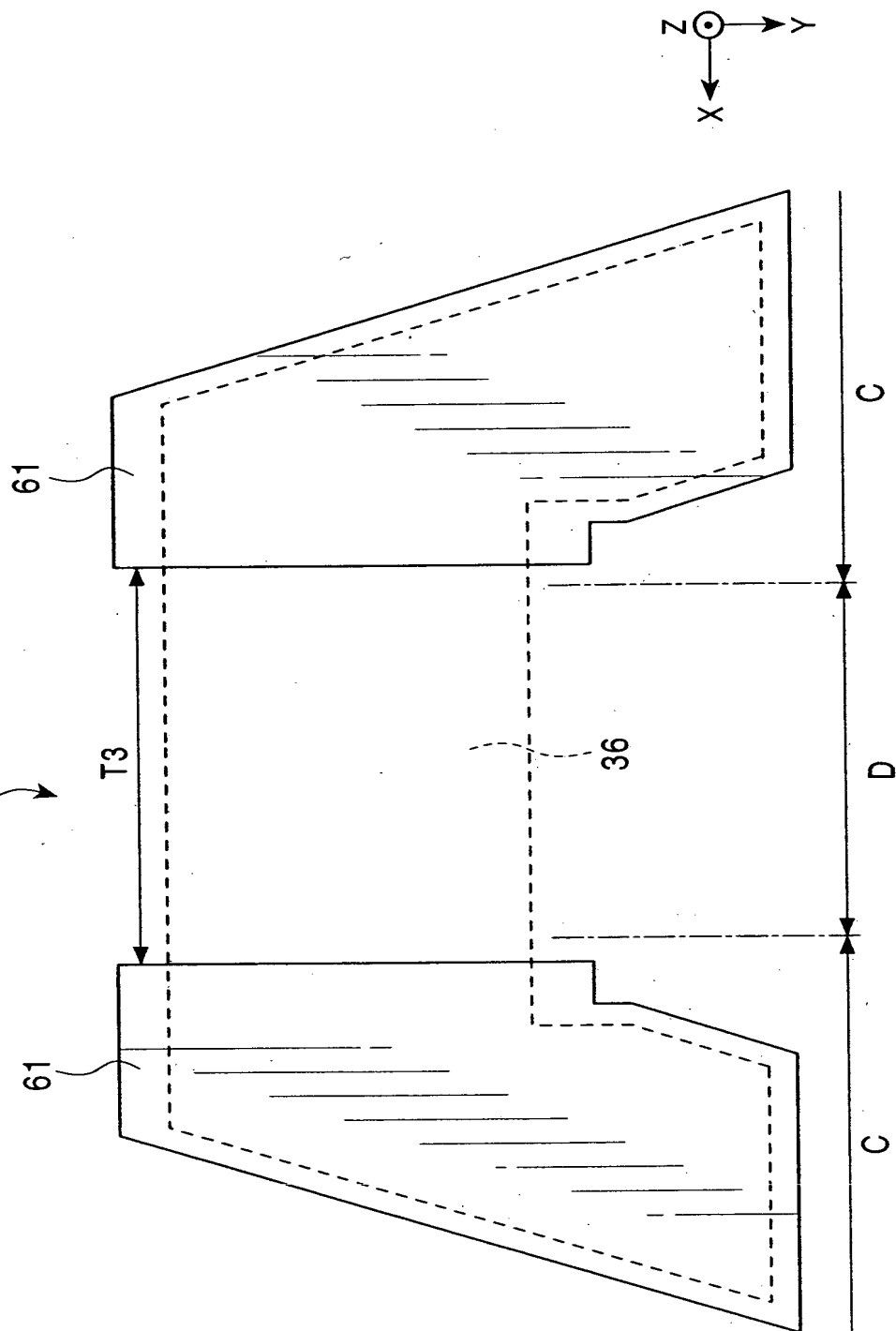
FIG. 16



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FIG. 17

FACE OPPOSING
 RECORDING MEDIUM



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FIG. 18

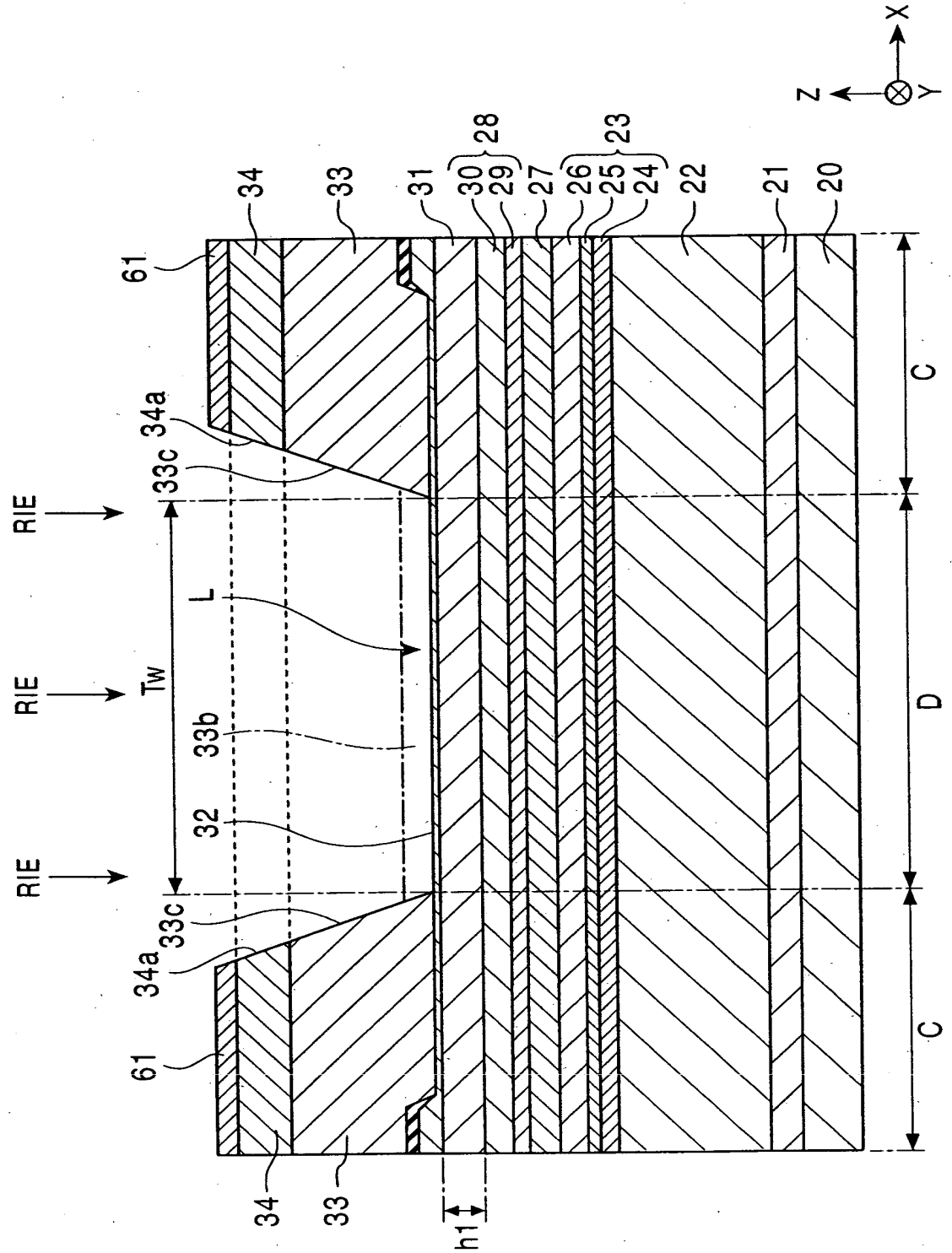
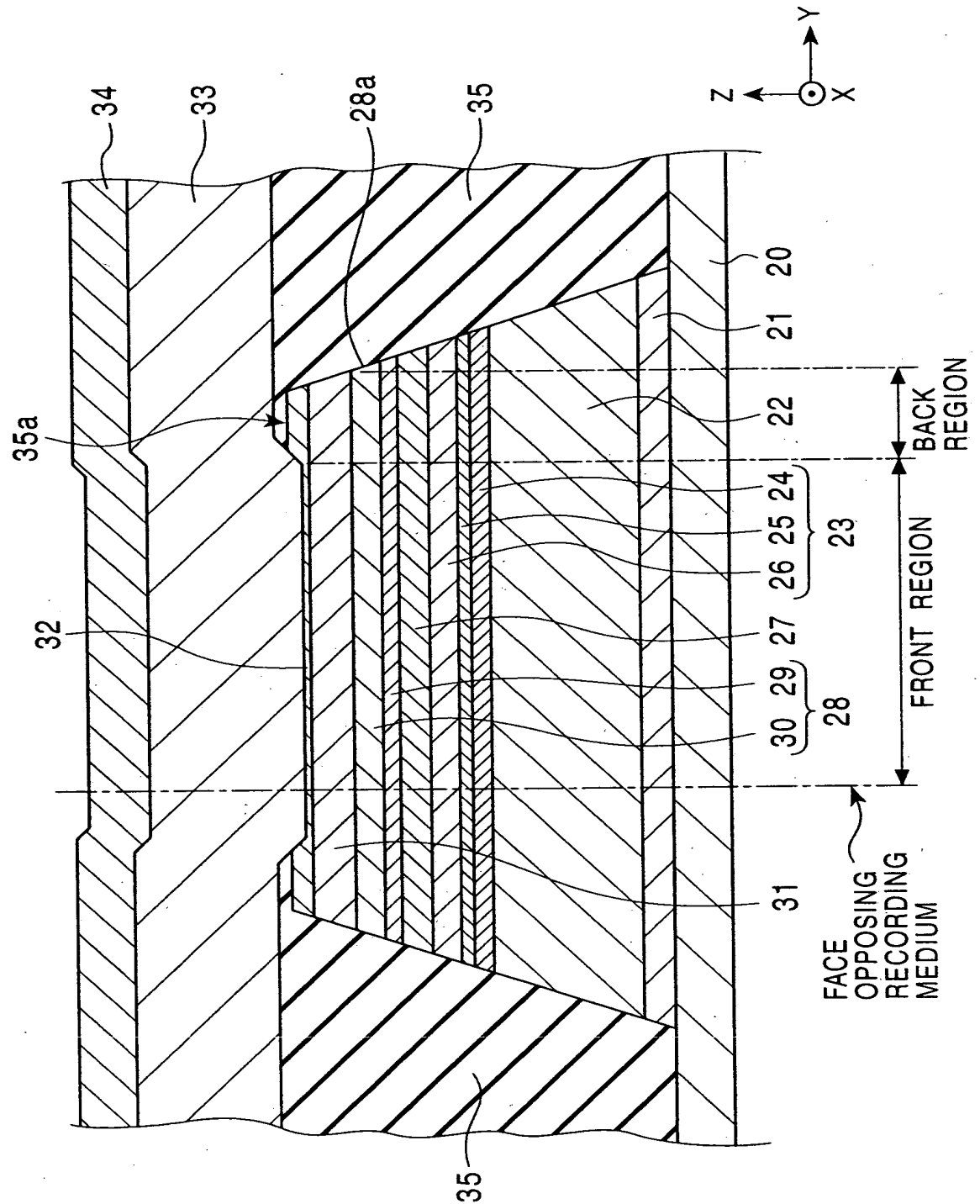


FIG. 19



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FIG. 20
 PRIOR ART

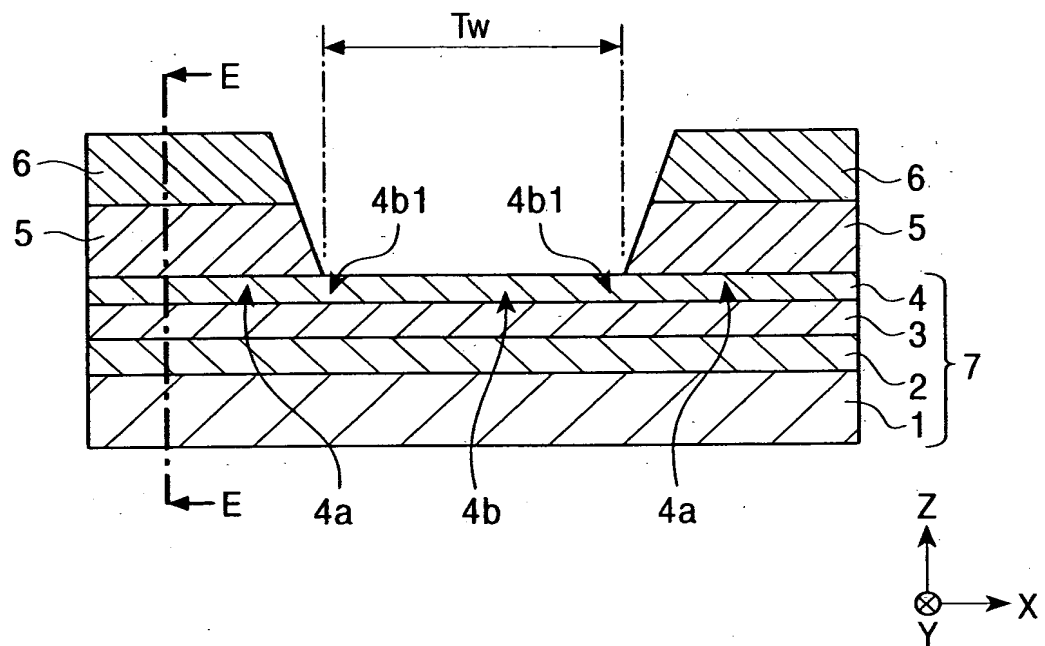
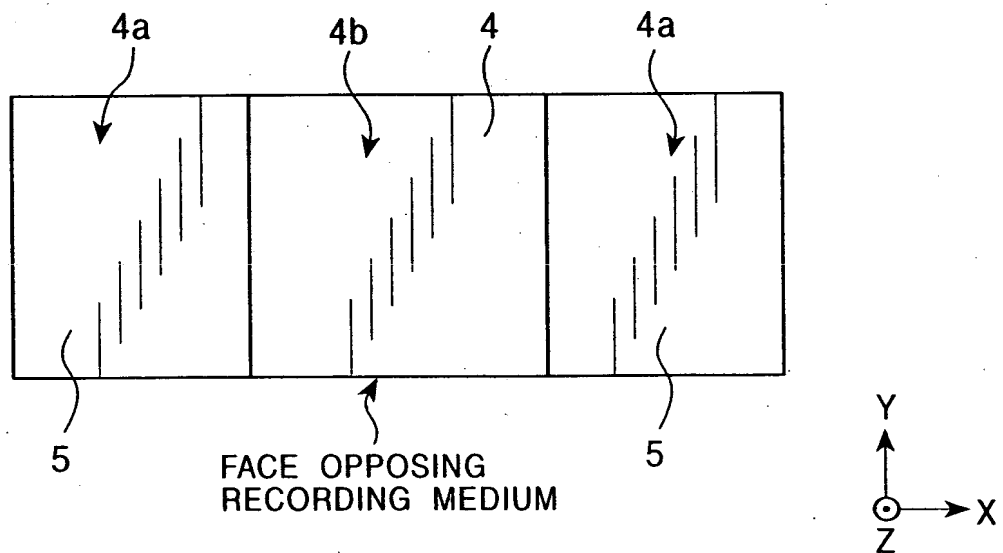


FIG. 21
 PRIOR ART



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FIG. 22
PRIOR ART

